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## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Thorsten Boger  
Charles M. Sorensen, Jr.

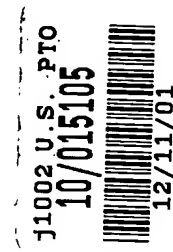
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AND PROCESS

Examiner:

Group Art Unit:



INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 - 1.98

Asst. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, DC 20231


Dear Sir:

The Examiner's attention is hereby directed to the following reference(s) listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 for consideration in connection with the examination of the above-identified patent application. One copy of the reference(s) is enclosed.

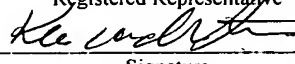
This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the enclosed documents constitute "prior art." If it should be determined that any of the submitted documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, applicant(s) reserve the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

Applicant(s) further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the enclosed references, should one or more of the references be applied against the claims of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Kees van der Sterre  
Registration No. 25,938  
Corning Incorporated  
SP-TI-03-1  
Corning, NY 14831  
(607) 974-3294

Date: December 11, 2001

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Asst. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231	
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